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## Feds put the Big 3's reign on hold

Rogers, Bell and Telus have roaming rates capped **PAGE 21**

**STOP THE WHACKING, FELLAS, IT'S CHRISTMAS!**  
A LOOK AT 5 NON-FESTIVE XMAS MOVIES **PAGE 24**

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## SHUMKA AT CITY HALL

Canada's Ukrainian Shumka dancers performed excerpts of Clara's Dream at city hall on Wednesday. The Ukrainian folk ballet is based on Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker. STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO

# LRT commitment needed from feds, province: Mayor

**Long-term funding.**  
City needs investment to build out citywide public-transit network



**RYAN TUMILTY**  
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If the provincial and the federal governments don't step up to fund the city's LRT, Mayor Don Iveson says it will be "at their peril," both politically and economically.

Iveson made the comments in a year-end interview with Metro, and said people in this city are coalescing around the need for an LRT.

"We are going to see a strong coalition come together around this in Edmonton and really what we need is a long-term provincial commitment," he said.

Last week, city councillors passed a motion making it clear that LRT funding is the city's first priority and that the \$800 million the city has pledged for the southeast LRT is still committed.

The city has had to delay that project, which would run from Mill Woods to Churchill Square, because of a lack of provincial and federal funds.

Iveson said the city needs a decades-long commitment to be able to build out the LRT network, and he believes

### Small-picture thinking

**"We can't keep building this province in fits and starts. It is not going to set us up for long-term success."** Mayor Don Iveson

some in the province understand the benefit.

"I think the premier gets it. I think our new minister gets it. They have to convince all of their colleagues that this is the right thing to do for province building," he said.

An investment in LRT is a good one for the province, Iveson argues, because it strengthens the economy; the number one issue for most voters. He warned, however, that sword cuts both ways.

"If they don't do it, it will hurt them in the next election," he said.

With Alberta's economy so tied to the price of oil, Iveson said he is aware a long-term commitment to LRT-building is not easy, but said there is no other way.

"We can't keep building this province in fits and starts. It is not going to set us up for long-term success."



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Message clear: Mayor

## Iveson expects arena price will be on budget

Mayor Don Iveson said he expects the proposed guaranteed maximum price for the downtown arena will come in on budget, because everyone involved realizes the consequences of missing that mark.

"As long as we're within the budget everything carries on without a hitch. If it's outside the budget, we have a serious problem," he said, during a year-end interview with Metro.

As part of the arena deal, the city and the Katz group have been working with contractor PCL on a guaranteed maximum price for the project.

That price is expected to be submitted to council early in the new year and is designed to ensure the project won't see increases down the line.

Iveson said he believes everyone involved understands the need for it to come in on budget.

"The message has been clearly sent to everyone who is working on it that we have to work within the \$480 million for the building and the \$604 million for the entire project," he said.

Iveson said he's hopeful the arena won't dominate this term of council the way it did the last.

"I think most Edmontonians have accepted the decision is made," he said.

"People will feel how they felt about how it came together, but there will be no going back on it." **RYAN TUMILTY/METRO**



A worker clears a portion of a snowy sidewalk downtown. The city gives property owners 48 hours to clear sidewalks after a snowstorm. METRO FILE

# Complaints over sidewalks sliding up

**'Going up significantly.'**  
City has seen 10 per cent jump in tickets

Edmontonians' snowy sidewalks are drawing a spike in slips and a spike in tickets, according to city officials.

Troy Courtoreille, the city's co-ordinator of the general enforcement unit, said they have seen a jump this winter of about 10 per cent in the number of calls and the number of tickets.

He said during the worst of last week's storms the city

wasn't taking complaints, but now with the phone lines open again he expects they will go back up.

"We know that our numbers are going to go up significantly to say the least," he said.

As of last week, Courtoreille said the city had seen 1,800 complaints and issued 180 tickets, with 103 of them going to commercial businesses and 77 going to residences.

Alberta Health Services said Wednesday they had seen a spike in emergency room visits because of the icy walks and were encouraging people to use caution, as well as make sure their walks were cleared.

Courtoreille said there are some locations that enforcement officers will have to take a hard look at this week.

"Those locations that are really bad, where they haven't been taking care of it all winter, with this additional rain and snow and then the freeze cycle, we know we have to get on top of those," he said.

He said when enforcement officers go out they look for sidewalks that have obviously not seen the required attention.

"If we see that there's a hard-pack snow or there's a clear indication or a trend where it hasn't been cleared," he explained. **RYAN TUMILTY/METRO**

### Big fines

- The city has 24 officers dedicated to bylaw enforcement and this time of year Courtoreille said 85-90 per cent of their time is spent on sidewalk complaints.
- The fine for failing to clear your walk in 48 hours is \$100. Residences are usually given one warning, but commercial properties are generally fined right away.

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## Thick-skeletoned? Fatbikes gaining popularity in Edmonton

Fatbikes are flying off the shelves and riding onto trails in Edmonton this winter more than they have in the past.

Equipped with larger tires and rims to help cyclists travel on snow and ice, fatbikes are increasing in popularity with Edmontonians wanting to continue their love for cycling into the winter season.

Cliff Vallentoad, owner of bike shop Red Bike increased his supply of fatbikes by 50 per cent this winter to make sure he keeps up with the demand.

"The popularity of these things ... jumped from selling three to four bikes in winter of 2011/2012 to selling 30-plus bikes in the winter of 2012/2013. It just completely took us by surprise," he said, adding the shop has sold 23 fatbikes to date this fall.

For Mark Jung, cyclist and president of Interclub Winter Rides group, the increase in popularity has been noted



Cyclists have turned to fatbikes to travel the trails. COURTESY MARK JUNG

by the number of riders now turning to the specialized bicycle to take to the trails.

"It used to come off as a novelty item ... now they realize it's actually functional and allows you to float on snow pack and is more stable on ice and snow," said Jung.

The price ranges in cost, from about \$1,500 to \$8,000.

STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO

## Sting. Send MLA to john school, advocate says

An Edmonton sexual-exploitation advocate is calling on MLA Mike Allen to attend a john school after he pleaded guilty Dec. 18 for his arrest in a prostitution sting earlier this year.

By pleading guilty, Allen will pay a penalty of \$500 and court fees, roughly \$500.

"It should have been a stronger sanction," said Kate Quinn, the executive director for the Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation. "In addition to the penalty and court cost, I wish he had been requested to go to a john school."

Quinn noted that men ar-

rested in Edmonton for soliciting sex have the opportunity to attend john school, at a cost of around \$500.

"It's a day of learning about the consequences of their actions on themselves, their families, on the communities where they were arrested and on the women they were exploiting and their families," Quinn explained.

"I think that's a really important part that's missing here," she said, adding that Allen carries a greater responsibility because he's a public figure. LEAH GERMAIN/METRO



Police investigate the death of a 26-year-old man outside the Travelodge on Gateway Boulevard. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

# Police investigate 2 stabbing deaths

### Unrelated incidents.

Both stabbings appear to have followed altercations in different parts of the city



RYAN TUMILTY  
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Edmonton police are investigating two stabbing deaths that occurred overnight in separate parts of the city.

A trail of blood was visible Wednesday morning

outside the Travelodge on Gateway Boulevard, where a man was fatally stabbed around 3 a.m.

Police had few details, but believe the incident began with an altercation at the nearby Diamonds Gentleman's Club and ended in the 26-year-old's death in the parking lot.

They are now looking for a vehicle that fled the scene.

"Witness statements suggest that a suspect vehicle, described as being a white Ford F-150, was seen leaving the scene driving north down Gateway erratically,"

### Homicide rate

There have been 27 murders in Edmonton in 2013.

said police spokesperson Scott Pattison.

Another suspicious death occurred in the parking lot of a Mac's convenience store at 107 Avenue and 104 Street around 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

In that case, police say they are still investigating, but it appears there was an altercation between two men that ended in a stab-

bing.

According to Mac's security manager Doug Hartl, staff at the convenience store did not witness the stabbing.

"In this case, (the Mac's employee) really didn't know anything until (a man) came in and asked to call an ambulance," Hartl said.

Pattison said having the two incidents happen in one night is unusual, but he did not suspect it was indicative of a larger trend.

"Crime is random. It happens any time, any place," he said. WITH FILES FROM LEAH GERMAIN/METRO

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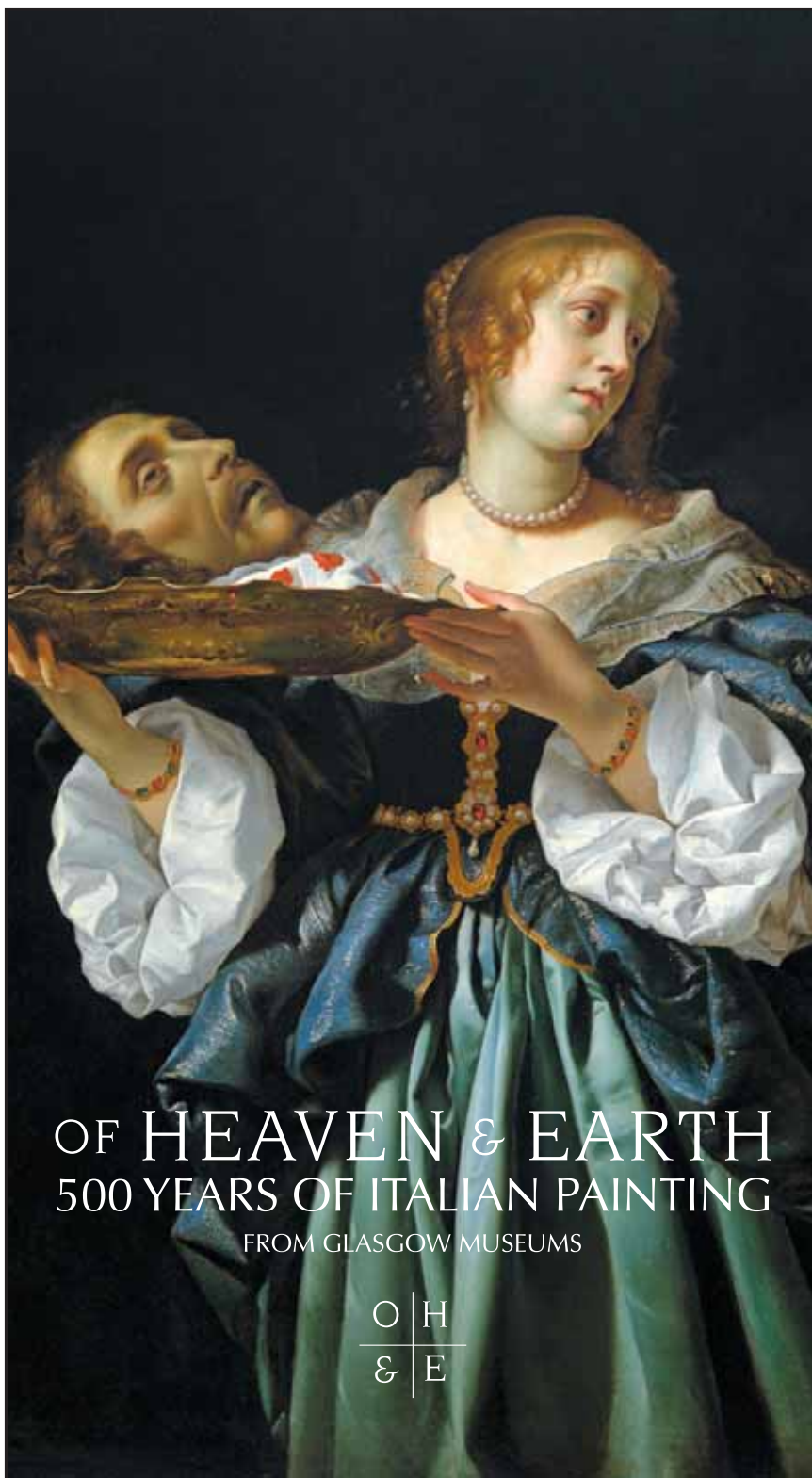
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Carlo Dolci, *Solome* (detail), ca. 1681-85 Oil on canvas, 48 5/16 x 37 3/4 in. (122.7 x 95.8 cm). Purchased by Glasgow Museums through KC Robinson, 1883 (656). © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection. Courtesy American Federation of Arts.



The Edmonton Catholic School Board of Trustees was presented Tuesday with a pilot project that would streamline crime reports from students if approved. STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO

## Crime Stoppers looks to schools

**Pilot.** Program aims to streamline process, make students more comfortable reporting



STEPHANIE DUBOIS  
stephanie.dubois@metronews.ca

Two Edmonton schools could streamline their reporting of crimes at the school level if a new pilot program is approved.

Students Speaking Out (SSO) would see crimes reported to Crime Stoppers by high school students seam-

### Crimes big and small

"A lot of students feel that Crime Stoppers, unfortunately, is only for the big crimes ... so we're trying to educate students about how they can use it."

Edmonton Police Const. Kendall Booth

lessly relayed to their schools' student-resource officer.

The Archbishop O'Leary and Queen Elizabeth schools were chosen based on proximity to the officers and other staff who would be working on the program.

"Crime happens anywhere — even in the schools," said Annette Wagers, Crime Stoppers communications co-

ordinator. "To have something like this where they can call anonymously without being afraid of their peers ... I think it will definitely help our police partners."

The pilot project is still awaiting approval from the Edmonton Catholic board of trustees but officials expect the project to launch in February.

### Small business

#### Flood-aid deadline extended to June

The Alberta government is extending the deadline for small- and medium-sized businesses affected by the June floods to apply for aid.

The aid includes loan and interest rebate programs to help Alberta's flood-affected small businesses, agricultural producers and not-for-profit organizations get back on their feet.

The original deadline to apply under the Alberta flood-recovery program was Dec. 31 — it now is June 30, 2014.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Valleyview. Gas station bathroom takes throne as best in the country

A Valleyview, Alta., gas station's washroom is the best in the country, according to voters in an online contest.

The Shell Super Station was awarded the title from Cintas, a restroom supplier that sponsored the contest.

The restroom on Highway 43 won in part for its energy-saving design and long-term commitment to cleanliness.

"Customers appreciate that they can count on us for a clean place to stop and use the washroom," said store manager Blake Sparks.

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The bathroom at the Shell Super Station in Valleyview, Alta., was voted best in Canada through an online contest. CONTRIBUTED





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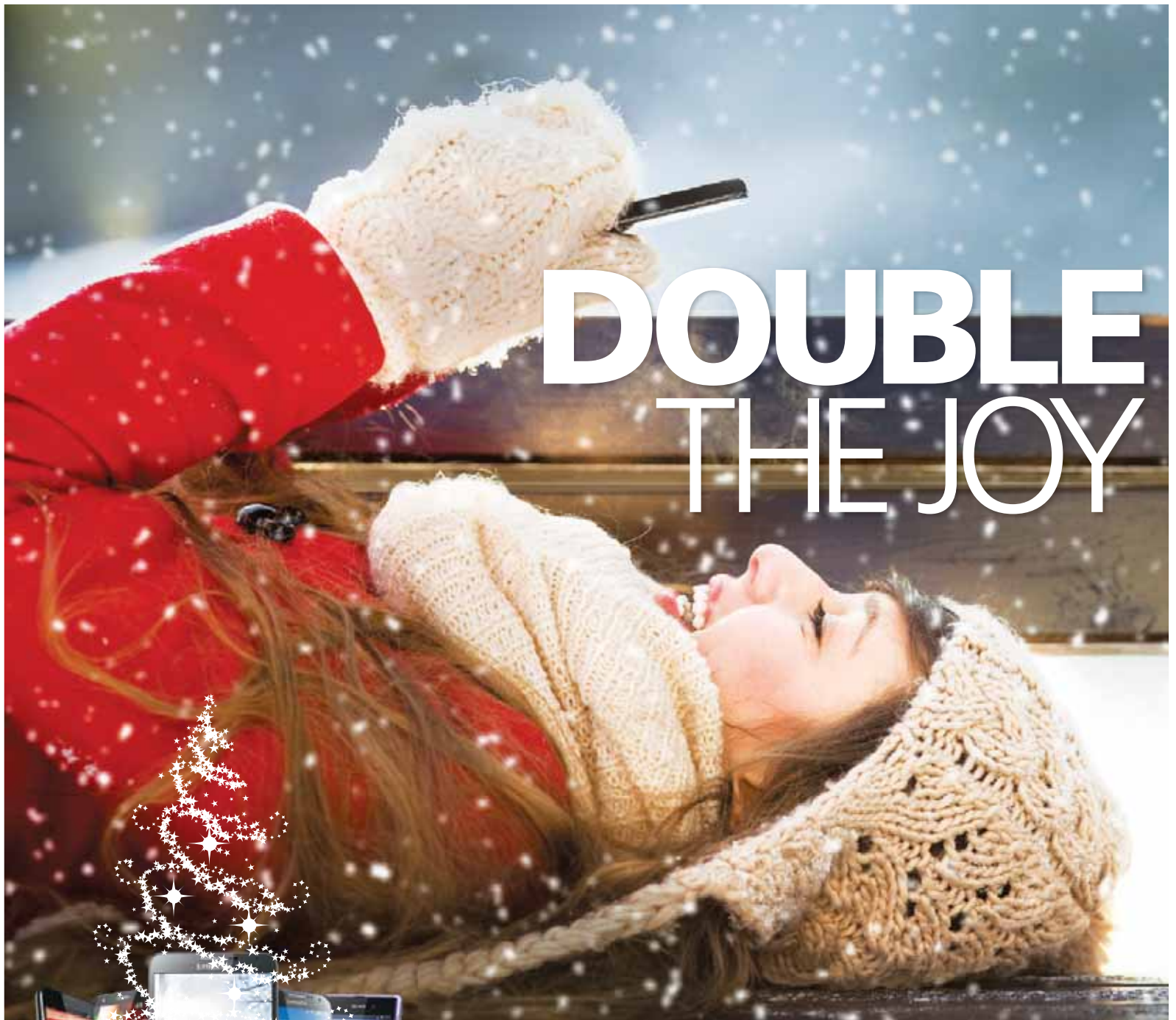
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Who Cares features some of Edmonton's sex-trade workers. SCREEN GRAB

# Edmonton-based documentary makes it to Netflix

**Who Cares.** Effort to register sex workers in case they go missing still continues today



**STEPHANIE DUBOIS**

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Almost a year since an Edmonton documentary about local sex-trade workers made its international premiere, the film is now featured on Netflix.

Who Cares, directed by Edmonton filmmaker Rosie Dransfeld, went onto the popular service in mid-November thanks to a partnership with the National Film Board (NFB).

"Most people tell me they

find it very powerful," said Dransfeld.

The film details the lives of three Edmonton streetwalkers but also follows local RCMP officers that are part of Project KARE. The officers visit the women at night and ask them to be part of a registry that identifies sex workers should they go missing.

RCMP officers still continue their work today, nearly a year later.

"I see the same girls out there all the time, girls who have previously registered. And I talk to them too since it's good timeline information for us so if they ever do get reported missing, I have recent information all the time," said Corp. Joe Verhaeghe.

RCMP officers say the compliance rate has remained steady since the documentary

## Film facts

**Who Cares** was released in 2012 in co-operation with the National Film Board.

- The documentary was filmed completely in Edmonton.
- Countless women are on the RCMP's registry.

was put out: over 95 per cent.

The women featured in the documentary, as well as the director and officers, have toured to discuss the film and underlying issues.

"It's really just about awareness to help the whole cause of missing and murdered (women)," said Verhaeghe.

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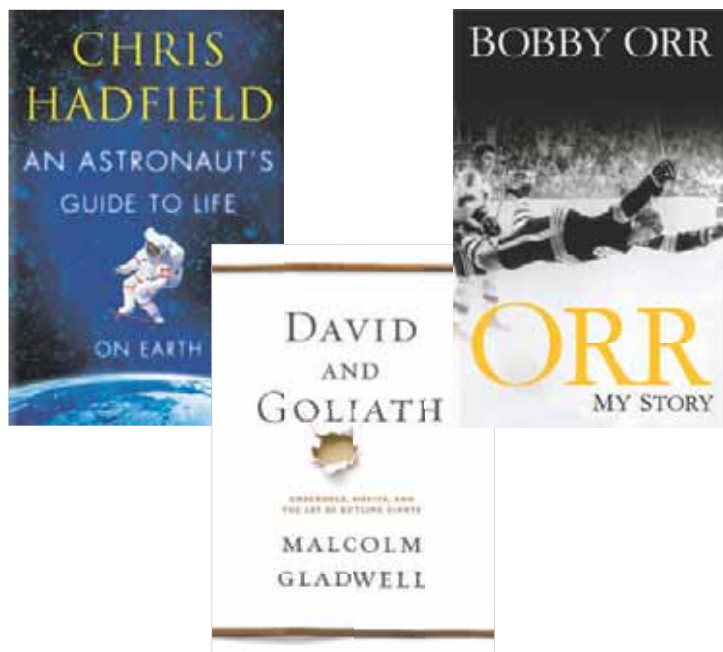
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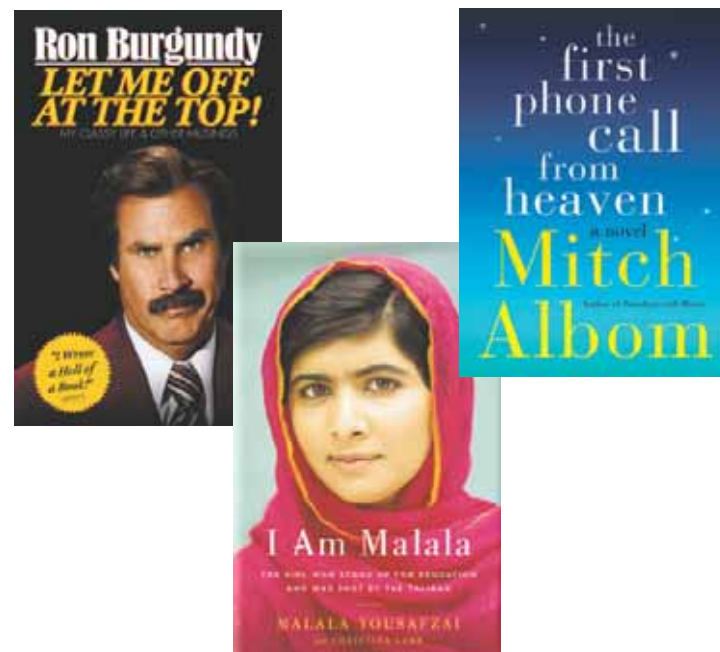
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# Date-rape drug a concern for Edmonton, police chief says

**GHB.** City police look to crack down on sexual assault and date-rape drug in 2014

Kristy Thomson is not completely sure she was drugged while out at an Edmonton bar in November, but the 24-year-old woman doesn't remember anything that happened shortly after she took a shot.

"Within 20 minutes, I don't really know what happened for the (following) five hours," she remembered.

For Edmonton police chief Rod Knecht, stories like Thomson's are what's motivating him to crack down on what he calls the abundance of the date rape drug police are seeing on Edmonton streets.

"One of the things that has grabbed my eye over the last couple of weeks, is we are seizing more of the date rape

## Quoted

**"I was told of a story last week where a girl wakes up Sunday morning and she doesn't know how she got there or what happened. The last thing she remembers is she was with friends in a bar."**

Edmonton police Chief Rod Knecht

drug than we ever have," he said in a year-end interview with Metro. "I think we (have seized) upwards of 200 litres of the drug ... over the last year."

Earlier this year, EPS busted a man and a woman with 106 litres of gamma-Hydroxybutyrate (GHB), a drug that police are referring to as the date rape drug.

"That's the drug where people will go into a club

and drop it into somebody's drink," Knecht explained. Knecht said that often crimes involving the date rape drug often go unreported.

"I was told of a story last week where a girl wakes up Sunday morning and she doesn't know how she got there or what happened. The last thing she remembers is she was with friends in a bar."

While the police are calling GHB the date rape drug, Nikki Bernier from the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton said there are a number of other substances, including alcohol, that are more commonly used in sexual assaults.

"It's a huge, complicated issue," she said. "The term date rape drug is synonymous with roofies or ecstasy, but it actually refers to any substance that an offender of perpetrator might use to make it easier to sexually assault someone."

LEAH GERMAIN/METRO



Officers with EPS' Edmonton Drug and Gang Enforcement Unit say a "dose" of GHB taken (or given) generally amounts to a capful of one of these bottles, which were seized from a north Edmonton home earlier this year.

METRO FILE

## Post-secondary cuts result of bad planning: Smith



Wildrose leader Danielle Smith RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Wildrose leader Danielle Smith said the budget cuts inflicted on the post-secondary sector this year didn't have to happen if the government had taken a more even keeled approach to budgeting.

"They conveyed to the sector that they were going to increase by three per cent, that is what everybody was expecting and then they came through

at the last minute with a seven per cent cut," she said, in a year end interview with Metro.

Smith said a Wildrose government would deliver more stable and predictable funding to post-secondary institutions, leveling out both the highs and the lows.

"One of the things we talked about was slowing the rate of year over year increases, but

having year over year increases that are predictable," she said.

She said the constant up and down is no way to budget for the sector.

Smith said she believes post-secondary took the wrath of the cuts, because the government didn't have to deal with the outcome.

"It's the post-secondary boards of governors who have

to deal with the wrath of students and parents because their funding got cut."

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

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Ronnie Biggs, one of Britain's most notorious criminals, poses with lingerie models in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in this Jan. 25, 2001, photo. Biggs, known for his role in the 1963 Great Train Robbery, died Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Britain's Great Train Robber dies, age 84

**Ronnie Biggs.** On the run for 35 years, he voluntarily returned to England in 2001

Ronnie Biggs was a petty criminal in Britain who set out to transform his life with the daring heist of a mail train packed with money.

The plan worked in ways he could never have imagined.

Biggs was part of a gang of at least 12 men that robbed a Glasgow-to-London Royal Mail train in the early hours of Aug. 8, 1963, switching its signals and tricking the driver into stopping in the darkness. The robbery netted 125 sacks of banknotes worth 2.6

## Family

In 2002, Ronnie Biggs married Raimunda Rothen, the mother of his son Michael.

- They survive him, as do two children, Chris and Farley, from his first marriage to Charmian Brent.
- A third son, Nicholas, died in a crash in 1971.

a media sensation and something of a notorious British folk hero.

He lived for many years beyond the reach of British justice in Rio de Janeiro, where he would regale tourists and the media alike with stories about the robbery. He appeared to enjoy thumbing his nose at the British authorities and even sold T-shirts and other memorabilia about his role in the robbery.

Biggs died Wednesday, aged 84, daughter-in-law Veronica Biggs said. He had been released from prison on Aug. 7, 2009, a day before his 80th birthday, on compassionate grounds because of ill health — he had suffered several strokes. He had been living in a nursing home since.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

million pounds — \$7.3 million US at the time, or more than \$50 million US today — and became known as “the heist of the century.”

Biggs was soon caught and jailed, but his escape from a London prison and decades on the run turned him into

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# Ethnic violence kills 500 in four days as South Sudan crisis grows

**Worries of looming civil war.** UN chief calls for urgent solution as 20,000 forced to seek refuge

At least 500 people, most of them soldiers, have been killed in South Sudan since Sunday, a senior government official said, as an ethnic rivalry threatened to tear apart the world's newest country.

The clashes apparently are pitting soldiers from the majority Dinka tribe of President Salva Kiir against those from ousted Vice-President Riek Machar's Nuer ethnic group, raising concerns the violence could degenerate into a civil war.

Fighting spread on Wednesday to Jonglei, the largest state in South Sudan, where

troops loyal to Machar were said to be trying to take control of Bor, the state capital.

Machar himself is the subject of a manhunt by the country's military after he was identified by Kiir as the leader of an alleged coup attempt on Sunday. Machar has denied he was behind any coup attempt.

Barnaba Marial Benjamin, the foreign minister, said late Wednesday that there was heavy fighting in Bor, but he denied renegade soldiers had overtaken it.

At least 19 civilians have been killed in violence in Bor, said Martin Nesirky, a spokesman for the UN secretary-general's office, citing figures from the South Sudan Red Cross.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon told reporters Wednesday that South Sudan was experiencing a political crisis that "urgently needs to be dealt with through political dialogue."



Civilians arrive at the UN mission in Juba, South Sudan, to take refuge on Tuesday. A political crisis has turned into ethnic violence resulting in the deaths of 500 and the displacement of 20,000. ROLLA HINEDI/UNMISS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ban said he urged Kiir "to resume dialogue with the political opposition."

South Sudan has been

plagued by ethnic violence since it peacefully broke away from Sudan in 2011 after decades of civil war.

The violence has forced about 20,000 people to seek refuge at UN facilities in Juba since Sunday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Analysis

### Breakout still unclear

Casie Copeland, the South Sudan analyst for the International Crisis Group who is in Juba, said key Nuer leaders in the army were defecting in Jonglei but that "events that led to Sunday's fighting remain unclear."

Toby Lanzer, the UN's humanitarian coordinator in South Sudan, said in a Twitter post that thousands of civilians in Jonglei had sought refuge at a UN facility there.

On Tuesday the United States ordered its citizens to leave South Sudan immediately.

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# Morsi charged with terrorism wave plot

**New trial.** Ousted Egyptian president could face death penalty ahead of constitution referendum

Egyptian prosecutors on Wednesday announced a new trial of ousted president Mohammed Morsi and the top leaders of his Muslim Brotherhood, accusing them of conspiring with Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran's Revolutionary Guard and militant groups to carry out a wave of terrorism to destabilize the country.

The charges, which carry a potential death penalty, are the most sweeping and heaviest accusations yet in a series of trials against the Brotherhood. The new trial of Morsi, the three top Brotherhood leaders and 32 other defend-

ants appeared aimed at crippling the top echelons of the group and further tarnishing the Brotherhood among the public ahead of a key January referendum on a new constitution.

The new military-backed government is seeking a strong "yes" vote for the constitution to show the legitimacy of the process put in place after the military removed Morsi on July 3. Brotherhood supporters oppose the new document and have vowed protests against it.

Since the coup, prompted by massive protests calling for Morsi's removal, Egypt has been in continual unrest. Morsi supporters have been holding near daily protests demanding his reinstatement, met by a fierce security crackdown that has killed hundreds of people and arrested thousands of Brotherhood members. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Ousted Egyptian president Mohammed Morsi after a news conference in Cairo in July, 2012. MAYA ALLERUZZO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

## Snowden seeking refuge in Brazil. Baird says NSA informer should surrender

National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden should abandon his bid for asylum in Brazil and surrender himself to the United States, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said Wednesday.

Baird said that Snowden's actions have compromised global security.

The U.S. wants to prosecute Snowden, who was granted temporary asylum in Russia. The move angered the Obama administration and has chilled relations between Moscow and Washington.

"I think he should go back to the United States and face the consequences of his actions," Baird said when asked about Snowden's outreach to the Brazilian government this week.

Snowden's cache of documents showed that Brazil was a prime target of the NSA in Latin America. It also suggests Canada's spying agency once monitored Brazil's mines and energy depart-

### Give it up

**"I think he should go back to the United States and face the consequences of his actions."**

John Baird, Canada's foreign affairs minister, speaking about Edward Snowden's recent move to reach out to the government of Brazil for asylum.

ment and helped the U.S. and Britain spy on participants at the London G20 summit in 2009.

In an open letter earlier this week, Snowden praised Brazil for standing up to the U.S. for spying on the country.

Snowden's temporary asylum in Russia is to expire in August.

The Brazilian government has not given any signs of having a plan to take Snowden in.

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## Ukraine. PM promises financial stability after Moscow deal

Ukraine's leadership on Wednesday praised a Russia-financed bailout as a guarantee of financial stability, while opposition activists claimed the deal is likely to worsen economic troubles.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday pledged to buy \$15 billion worth of Ukrainian bonds and sharply cut the price of natural gas in an effort to relieve political

pressure on Ukraine's embattled president, Viktor Yanukovich.

Prime Minister Mykola Azarov told a Cabinet meeting that the deal with Russia ensures "people's confidence in a stable life," while an association agreement with Europe would have given Ukraine a "New Year's present" of "bankruptcy and social collapse."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Romania. Officials accused of taking bribes

Some 26 Romanian police officers and ambulance employees have been charged with calling undertakers to tell them that someone had died — or in some cases were not yet dead — in exchange for money.

Officials say the suspects called funeral parlour managers about people who had

died in car accidents or collapsed on the street.

Prosecutor Corina Paraschivescu told The Associated Press on Wednesday that 26 officials, 10 of them police officers, had been charged. Six of them were under arrest for about a month because they were considered "a social danger." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Russia approves new amnesty bill

**Protesters.** The bill could apply to Greenpeace activists and the two jailed members of the Pussy Riot punk band

Russia's parliament on Wednesday passed an amnesty bill that will likely apply to the 30-member crew of a Greenpeace ship detained after an Arctic protest, but it wasn't immediately clear if and when the activists, including two Canadians, would be allowed to leave the country.

A spokesman for Greenpeace said the organization had hoped Paul Ruzyski of Port Colborne, Ont., and Alexandre Paul of Montreal and 28 other activists could return home by Christmas, but that seems unlikely given the amount of red tape surrounding their release.

At the earliest, they may make it in time to ring in the new year, Diego Creimer told The Canadian Press.

The amnesty, which also would likely free the two jailed members of the Pussy Riot punk band, has been largely viewed as the Kremlin's attempt to soothe criticism of Russia's human rights records ahead of the Winter Olympics in Sochi next year. But opposition lawmakers argued it doesn't go nearly far enough and the complicated legislation appeared to leave many questions open.



Greenpeace International activists Philip Ball and Camila Speziale embrace after hearing the Russian parliament passed an amnesty bill that would likely pardon them, in St. Petersburg, Russia, on Wednesday.

DMITRI SHAROMOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL

The State Duma on Wednesday voted 446-0 in favour of the carefully tailored bill, which mostly applies to those who haven't committed violent crimes, first-time offenders, minors and women with small children. Lawmakers said they expect about 2,000 people to be released from jail.

The Duma adopted last-minute amendments to the bill to include suspects of hooliganism who are still awaiting trial, a provision that could apply to the crew of a Greenpeace ship facing those charges after their September's protest in the Arctic.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Still in limbo

## Family 'cautiously optimistic'

The sister of one of two Canadian Greenpeace activists facing charges in Russia says she's "cautiously optimistic" that an amnesty bill passed Wednesday in Moscow will apply to them.

Patricia Ruzyski Stirling said the news brought some relief from the anxiety that has plagued her family for months, but the tight-

knit clan won't celebrate until Paul Ruzyski is back on Canadian soil. When he does arrive, however, his entire hometown will welcome him back with a massive party, she said.

"All he said was, 'We've been on this roller-coaster before,'" she told The Canadian Press. "He said, 'Things look good but please don't get all your hopes up until I call you and say I've signed my papers and we're headed to the airport,'" she said.

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# Canadians least likely to text greetings: Poll

**Survey.** Residents of British Columbia and Alberta more likely to text friends and family during the holidays

Would you dash off a quick text message to wish a friend or family member a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah

or Joyous Kwanzaa instead of calling?

Cellphone-toting Canadians are less likely than their global counterparts to text a message home for the holidays, according to the results of an online Ipsos poll of 18,000 people in 24 countries.

Still, 59 per cent said they had done it in the past. That was actually the lowest per-

centage among the two-dozen countries involved in the survey and well below the global average of 73 per cent.

About 89 per cent of the respondents in Sweden, 84 per cent of South Africans, 83 per cent of Russians and 82 per cent of Spaniards and Indonesians had sent their best wishes by text.

Canadian women were more likely than men to text

their friends and family during the holidays (64 per cent versus 54 per cent of Canadian men).

About 46 per cent of the Canadians surveyed said they've used Skype, FaceTime or another video conferencing app to communicate with family members, compared to the global average of 42 per cent.

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About 59 per cent of Canadians said they had texted holiday greetings in the past — well below the global average of 73 per cent. ISTOCK



## New Alps attraction not for people with fear of heights

Mathieu Dechavanne, head of the Compagnie du Mont Blanc, stands in a glass cube with a see-through bottom that is suspended from the Aiguille du Midi peak in the French Alps, offering a breathtaking view a kilometre down, including Mont Blanc, Europe's highest mountain. Billed as the tallest attraction in Europe, the Pas dans le Vide (Step into the Void) opens to the public Saturday. It was three years in the making. It includes five transparent sides made of three layers of tempered glass fixed with metal to a big support structure.

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# Rescued crane operator suffers severe burns after massive fire

## Kingston, Ont.

Authorities concerned damaged crane could come crashing down

A 68-year-old construction worker stranded atop a crane at the centre of a massive fire in Kingston, Ont., was "severely burned" before a military helicopter was able to navigate smoke and leaping flames to airlift him to safety.

Adam Jastrzebski, who had burns to his hands, legs, back and buttocks, was recovering in hospital Wednesday after his dramatic rescue a day earlier, said his employer at Canadian Professional Crane Inc.

"He's in severe pain right now in the hospital and they're giving him morphine," said Aram Malek.

"I'm just surprised no one got hurt more than that be-

cause the fire was enormous."

Firefighters from neighbouring communities had to be called in on Tuesday afternoon to help Kingston crews battle the flames which had engulfed an apartment building that was under construction.

A crowd watched from the streets as the crane operator got out of his cab, crept along the boom of the crane to its very edge and waited to be rescued by a team from CFB Trenton.

Meanwhile, authorities focused their attention Wednesday on the charred crane which towered above the still-smouldering remains of the building at the heart of the blaze.

"Right now our biggest risk is having that crane in its current condition," said Kingston fire chief Rheaume Chaput. "It's been impinged by fire and is in a damaged condition. So we want to make sure we make that safe, get that down."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Members of 424 Squadron, from left, Capt. Jean-Benoit Girard-Beauseigle, Master Cpl. Matt Davidson, Cpl. Iain Cleaton, Sgt. Cory Cisyk and Capt. David Agnew, pose for media at CFB Trenton on Wednesday. Inset: Sgt. Cisyk rescues a crane operator who was stranded at the end of his crane during a huge fire in Kingston, Ont., on Tuesday. LARS HAGBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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## Defamation. Reporter accepts Ford's apology

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has issued another apology and retracted comments he made about Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale in a televised interview.

"I wholly retract my statements and apologize to Mr. Dale without reservation for what I said," Ford said in a statement Wednesday night.

Dale said he accepts Ford's apology, which he demanded last week in a libel notice that called on Ford to retract statements that the reporter said amounted to accusing him of pedophilia.

The notice also called for the mayor to issue an "unreserved, abject, complete apology" of all false claims about what happened during an incident near Ford's house in May 2012.

"I won't be taking legal action against the mayor, and I'm looking forward to getting back to work," Dale said on Twitter.

"I sincerely appreciate Mayor Ford's complete retraction and unqualified apology, and I'm very glad the truth is no longer in dispute," Dale tweeted.

### Retraction

**"There was no basis for saying as I did on Dec. 17 and in the past that Mr. Dale was 'lurking' or 'leering' near or over my fence or behaving surreptitiously."**

**Toronto Mayor Rob Ford,** in reference to an apology he made Tuesday in Toronto city council.

Dale said he wouldn't be commenting further, but added that "the matter with VisionTV is still outstanding."

During an interview with Conrad Black, which aired Dec. 9 on VisionTV, Ford claimed that Dale was in his backyard, "taking pictures of little kids."

"I am unaware of any pictures Mr. Dale took with his phone of land near my property, and therefore I apologize to Mr. Dale if the words I spoke to Mr. Black left the impression that Mr. Dale had taken pictures of my backyard," Ford said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

### Fatal disaster

## Rail service resumes in Lac-Mégantic

Trains are rolling through Lac-Mégantic, Que., for the first time since last summer's deadly rail disaster.

Rail service resumed Wednesday in the town where a runaway train carrying crude oil derailed and exploded in July, killing 47 people.

The crash also destroyed part of Lac-Mégantic's downtown core.

Many locals are still trying to cope with the disaster and have mixed feelings about the train's return to the railway-dependent community.

Businesses along the railroad say the service is vital for the town's economy.

The gradual return of freight trains to Lac-Mégantic must follow strict rules and conditions.

For now, no dangerous substances will be transported through the town, which is about 250 kilometres east of Montreal.

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## Another blow for Bitcoin. China exchange says it's no longer accepting yuan

The biggest Bitcoin exchange in China said Wednesday that it's no longer accepting yuan deposits, dealing another setback to the virtual currency.

BTC China's announcement on its Twitter-like Sina Weibo account comes two weeks after China's central bank said the country's banks and payments systems were barred from handling the virtual currency.

The exchange said that "due to the reasons that everyone knows, BTC China

### Central bank warning

- The Chinese central bank warned earlier this month that Bitcoins don't have any legal status or monetary equivalent and shouldn't be used as currency, adding that financial institutions and payment systems could not sell, trade or store Bitcoins.

has to temporarily stop its yuan account recharging functions." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### Outcry creates change

## German town strips Hitler of citizenship

A Bavarian town council has voted unanimously to strip Adolf Hitler of honorary citizenship bestowed 80 years ago, after an outcry prompted

by their decision last week not to adopt a resolution denouncing the 1933 decision.

The issue came up after an archivist discovered documents showing both Hitler and the president who appointed him, Paul von Hindenburg, had been given honorary citizenship of Dietramszell.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

# India swept with outrage over diplomat's treatment



Devyani Khobragade, India's deputy consul general in New York, at a fund-raising event in New York last week. Prosecutors say Khobragade claimed on visa application documents she paid her Indian maid \$4,500 US per month, but that she actually paid her less than \$3 per hour. She plans to challenge the arrest. **MOHAMMED JAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## N.Y.C. Relations with the U.S. now heated after Indian diplomat arrested and strip searched

An Indian diplomat said U.S. authorities subjected her to a strip search, cavity search and DNA swabbing following her arrest on visa charges in New York City, despite her "incessant assertions of immunity."

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described the diplomat's treatment as "deplorable."

The case has sparked widespread outrage in India and infuriated the government, which revoked privileges for U.S. diplomats to protest her treatment. It has cast a pall over India-U.S. relations, which have cooled in recent years despite a 2008 nuclear deal that was hailed as a high point in the nations' ties.

Devyani Khobragade, India's deputy consul general in New

York, was arrested Thursday outside of her daughter's Manhattan school on charges that she lied on a visa application about how much she paid her housekeeper.

Prosecutors say the maid received less than \$3 per hour for her work. Khobragade has pleaded not guilty.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### She says

**"I broke down many times as the indignities of repeated handcuffing, stripping and cavity searches, swabbing, in a holdup with common criminals and drug addicts were all being imposed upon me despite my incessant assertions of immunity."**

Devyani Khobragade, India's deputy consul general in New York, in an email describing her treatment.



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Cecil Williams pets his guide dog, Orlando, in his hospital bed in New York City on Tuesday. JOHN MINCHILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Heroic guide dog ready to retire

## Too old to guide.

Owner doesn't want to part with dog who leaped onto subway tracks to save him

Cecil Williams, who has been recovering at a New York City hospital with his guide dog Orlando still by his side, had been slated to get another working dog in January or February to replace the 11-year-old black lab who leaped onto subway tracks after his blind owner lost consciousness and fell off the station platform.

Now, he would ideally like to have two dogs — one working and one retired as a pet — if logistics, physical abilities and

finances allow.

If that's not possible, the family that raised Orlando as a puppy says it will be "absolutely thrilled to have him back," said Guiding Eyes for the Blind spokeswoman Michelle Brier. "They're very thrilled their little baby has made such a big difference."

Williams said on Tuesday that he couldn't pay for a non-working dog, so he was planning to look for a good home for Orlando. Guiding Eyes provides working dogs for free but cannot cover retired dogs' expenses.

St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, where Williams is staying, has been fielding queries from well-wishers offering money and other assistance.

Williams said that if he does decide he's able to care for two

dogs, he'd need help paying for the lab's care.

The organization was setting up a fund and planned to post information on its website. If it turns out Williams doesn't need the money, it will be used for other guide dogs.

Williams, 61, and Orlando both escaped serious injury Tuesday when they were bumped by a train passing over them — a miraculous end to a harrowing ordeal that began when Williams felt faint on his way to the dentist.

Witnesses said Orlando barked frantically and tried to stop Williams from tumbling off the platform. Matthew Martin told the New York Post that Orlando leaped onto the tracks as the train approached and kissed Williams to entice him to move. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Christmas scam

## Couple lied about stolen gifts: Cops

A Mississauga, Ont., couple who reported their Christmas gifts stolen — including an iPad for their son who has Down syndrome — have been charged with public mischief.

Peel police allege the pair fabricated the theft.

The man and woman claimed that they had been driving home from the mall on Saturday evening when a sheet of ice smashed their back window, causing their purchases to fly out of the vehicle and then be stolen.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## Australia. Tourist on her phone plunges off pier while browsing Facebook

A woman was walking along a bay in Melbourne on Monday night when she became distracted by her Facebook feed and plummeted off the pier into the chilly water, Victoria state police said.

A witness called for help and police rushed to the woman's aid. They found her flailing around in the water, about 20 metres from the pier.

"She was still out in the water lying on her back in a floating position because she told us later that

she couldn't swim," Senior Constable Dean Kelly of the state water police told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. "She still had her mobile phone in her hand and initially she apologized and said sorry."

The woman was taken to a hospital for treatment.

"With Facebook, or social media in general as far as we're concerned, if you're anywhere near the water just pay attention," Kelly said. "Especially if you can't swim."

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



# Will regulation bring more choice, lower prices, better service?

## David and Goliath.

Feds aim to encourage more wireless providers, leading to better deals for Canadian consumers

Canada's biggest telecom companies are facing a cap on the wireless roaming rates they charge smaller rivals for using their networks and could face fines for breaking rules that govern the industry.

Industry Minister James Moore announced Wednesday that the government is making legislative changes in an attempt to give consumers more competition in the wireless market, dominated by Rogers, Bell and Telus.

"Currently, high domes-

## The Big 3 dominate

Canaccord Genuity analyst Dvai Ghose said the move should help the new wireless companies in theory, but said it's "too little, too late."

- Ghose noted that Wind Mobile's majority owner, Russian telecom VimpelCom, has put its stake up for sale and struggling Mobilicity is operating under creditor protection and is also up for sale. Public Mobile has been sold to Telus.

tic roaming rates hold back many providers, especially new entrants, from offering more choice, lower prices and better service to Canadians," Moore said in a

statement.

Ottawa will move to prevent the big wireless providers from charging small wireless companies more than they charge their own customers for domestic roaming.

Moore said the rates "can be more than 10 times what they charge their own customers."

Roaming fees are charged when customers use their cellphones outside their own network provider's coverage area.

Rogers, Bell and Telus have large national networks, but smaller providers such as Wind Mobile, Mobilicity, Maritime-based Eastlink and Quebec's Videotron have to negotiate agreements with the Big Three to give their customers service across the country when they travel.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Snail mail

## Canada Post head defends cuts, rate hike

The head of Canada Post says the corporation needs to make major changes to stay alive in the digital age.

Deepak Chopra defended the Crown agency's proposals to cut service and raise rates, appearing before a Commons committee Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Market Minute

**DOLLAR**  
93.55¢ (-0.70¢)

**TSX**  
13,334.73 (+154.57)

**OIL**  
\$97.80 US (+\$0.58)

**GOLD**  
\$1,235 US (+\$4.90)

**Natural gas:** \$4.27 US (-\$0.02)  
**Dow Jones:** 16,167.97 (+292.71)



## You spin me right 'round

Assaf Biderman, co-inventor of the Copenhagen Wheel and associate director of the SENSEable City Laboratory at MIT, poses with his invention at Superpedestrian, his venture-backed company in Cambridge, Mass. The startup is launching a new device that transforms almost any bicycle into an electric-hybrid vehicle using an app on a smartphone. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# TURKEY TROUBLE? LET'S TALK

I think I've finally found my calling — specifically, my turkey calling.

This holiday season, millions of Canadians from coast to coast will spend hours on the painstaking preparation of their Christmas turkey. And I want to take them under my wing.

You probably don't realize this, but I have been certified as the best Metro columnist/turkey preparer who uses my keyboard. And it's not often you hear those sorts of qualifications. In fact, family members and co-workers alike have long said that when they think "turkey" they think "John Mazerolle."

I owe my love and intimate knowledge of turkey to the Internet. Namely, butterball.com, which I can say without hyperbole is the best turkey preparation website I have ever seen this week while preparing for a column that is due in less than an hour.

Butterball's set-up is really something. Did you know they've had a 1-800 talk-line for decades that people can call if they're hav-



HE SAYS

**John Mazerolle**

metronews.ca

ing turkey trouble?

You call and "turkey experts" help you with what one recent television news report called "your turkey crisis." This is fabulous. I can't count the number of times some turkey-related event has cropped up in my life and I acted like a bird-brain — my prom night/pet turkey "incident," just for starters. And help was only a phone call away.

"Open every November and December, our 50+ experts answer more than 100,000 questions, in both English and Spanish, for thousands of households around the United States and Canada," the website chirps.

What's more, the turkey talk-line call centre even added something special this year for the very first time: Men.

This is where my calling comes in: I want to talk turkey. As a certified turkey expert, I would like to be part of this important and trailblazing team.

For instance, I could explain to guys like me the importance of making sure the bird is not past its best-before date. (In my 20s I had several turkeys I received as Christmas bonuses ruined by two years in the freezer. When the third turkey arrived, the two-year-old bird would get the boot.)

I also believe I could help with the efficiency of those 100,000-plus calls. I can assure you that by about the 300th time I was asked where the meat thermometer goes, I would have several alternative answers at the ready.

Without being sexist, I think I can say men deal with problems in their own special way. I'm sure the women giving thoughtful, detailed instructions over the phone will appreciate the counterpoint of me barking, "What do you mean it won't fit, force it!" and "It's fiine, I'm sure it's fiine. It's probably fine."

I must admit, also, that I like the idea of joining this flock because I assume all-you-can-eat turkey is a job perk. Which will be great for me, because despite my credentials and intimate knowledge of turkey, I've never actually cooked one successfully. White and dark meat, please. And cranberries if you've got them. Gobble gobble.

## ZOOM

# Glow with the flow



JULIA CUMES/SOLENT NEWS

## LED lights added to paddle boards

The dark silhouettes of moonlit paddlers appear to be walking on water. The stand-up paddle boarding enthusiasts took to the water with specially-made LED lights strapped to the bottom of their boards. The surreal image captures the moment Justin Labdon and his team of paddle boarders headed out of a harbour in Dennis, Mass., one night.

METRO

## Quoted



**"Standing on the jetty photographing down, what I saw was even more beautiful and surreal than I was expecting."**

Julia Cumes, 41, photographer based in Cape Cod, Mass.

## Sea life attracted to board lights

The LED lights strapped to the bottom of the boards attract fish, including squid, blue fish and big striped bass, says Justin Labdon, owner of Adventure Chatham. Asked by Metro whether the light would entice larger predatory sea life, Labdon replied, "We don't venture out to shark-inhabited areas, but I would assume they might be attracted to the light as well." METRO

## LED water sports

- \$300 per LED-lit paddle board.
- AdventureChatham offers night-time paddle boarding excursions when there is a full moon out.
- Paddles with LED lights at the end are being considered as his company's next novelty water sports experience, says Labdon.

## Clickbait



**IRENE KUAN**  
irene.kuan@metronews.ca



GETTY IMAGES

**If you've yet to complete your Christmas shopping by now, then you're in for a wild ride — looking for a parking spot at the mall that is. A congested parking lot full of drivers with short fuses can turn into a real-life nightmare before Christmas. These apps will make looking for a parking spot the least of your worries during the busy shopping season.**

## Parkopedia:

This app works on all mobile platforms and is like Wikipedia for parking spaces. The creators have set out to map every parking lot and parking space in the world and so far has data, contributed by users, from 28 countries, covering over 25 million parking spots. The app can give directions to the parking space; provide real-time availability, and prices and payment options for parking.

## ParkMe:

ParkMe is an award-winning free app for iOS and Android that works to help you find the cheapest and closest parking spaces by providing the cost of parking before you arrive at your destination and lets you compare options. This app works in the U.S., Canada and in European cities.

## Twitter

**@metropicks asked:** Calgary cabbies are eyeing a puke penalty to cover the cleanup cost. What is a sufficient penalty for puking in a cab?

**@Cory\_Boehm:** A minimum of \$200 seems more than reasonable.

**@Canucklehead\_ca:** So drunk you puke in a cab? I suspect the next morning will present it's own penalty. Maybe two if you have an unknown guest.

**@ryanjordandyck:** can we get back to



the real cab issue? Horrible customer service and lack of accountability? #yyc

**@DeafPoets:** I dispatch at an Edmonton company. The going rate for screaming groceries is about \$75, depending on how vile the mess is.

**@jpmacnab:** I think it is \$50 in Ottawa

**@santanapoptarts:** barf bags extra large size and \$10 keep it real, but the puker must realize its gross and ur in a cab #poordriver

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# Clara's Dream comes true for dancer

## Nutcracker performance.

Jeff Mortensen spent 18 hours a day rehearsing for this 'Ukrainianized' version of a Christmas classic



JENNIFER LARAWAY  
Jennifer Laraway  
edmonton@metronews.ca

Based on E.T.A Hoffmann's original story of The Nutcracker and the Mouse King, Clara's Dream starts with a young girl receiving the gift of a spell-bound nutcracker figurine on Christmas Eve.

At the stroke of midnight, the toy comes alive and finds himself in a battle with the mouse king and his army. With Clara's help, the Nutcracker and his battalion defeat the posse.

With victory, the spell cast on the nutcracker is broken. As a reward, he takes Clara on an incredible journey.

The ensuing adventure is delicately portrayed through a unique partnership between three dance companies, which blend classical ballet with traditional Ukrainian dance. Playing the Nutcracker Prince for the first time is Jeff Mortensen.

"People would be surprised at the amount of rehearsals and work that goes into the show. The audience gets to see the final performance:

### Details

The three partnering companies are Edmonton's Ukrainian Shumka Dancers and State Folk Dance Company, along with Kyiv, Ukraine's Kyiv Ballet.

- Tickets are \$25 and available from Ticketmaster.

the clean, final product of the show," he says.

"So You Think You Can Dance is a good example where the audience sees 30 seconds of messing around and having fun but they don't see the days before where we are dancing 17 to 18 hours a day to nail a two minute piece."

In addition to the gruelling schedule, Mortensen needed to learn an entirely new dance discipline.

Pirouetting out of his comfort zone to play the prince in Clara's Dream means Mortensen is able to fulfill his own lifelong fantasy. "I remember watching this character throughout the years who has always been such an amazing, classic ballet dancer. I wondered if I could do it. But, we want to make sure it's a 'Ukrainianized' ballet so I used my experience with Shumka in the ballet."

It's worked out: the result is captivating. Clara's Dream takes place Jan. 10 and 11 at Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium.

### Prep work

"It is a technical role in terms of presentation, so I took ballet classes and flew out to Ukraine with my partner, who is a classical ballerina. I have never done this style before so it's unusual for me."

Jeff Mortensen



Jeff Mortensen achieves a life dream in Clara's Dream's star role. COURTESY BOTTOM LINE PRODUCTIONS

# 2 SCENE

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There are holiday flicks and then there are flicks set during the holidays.  
Two very different things, each offering their own twist on all the naughty and nice things the season has to offer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

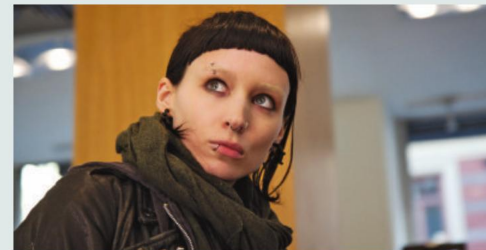


### In Bruges

You'd have to pay attention to realize this dark comedy actually takes place during the holiday season — the only references are casual asides and the occasional shot of Christmas decorations in the background. And the plot itself is hardly cheer-filled: It centres on two hitmen, played by Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson, who are sent to Belgium to lay low after an especially messy job.

# 5

## Non-festive holiday flicks



### The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

This is hardly holiday fare, unless you count perverse family dysfunction as a key hallmark of your seasonal gatherings. The horrors in this dark thriller kick off several days before Dec. 25 and unfold through a bitterly cold Scandinavian winter. It centres on a dogged journalist, played by Michael Nyqvist in the 2009 Swedish-language version and Daniel Craig in the 2011 remake, who traces the decades-old disappearance of a young woman with the help of a tattooed hacker, originally played by Noomi Rapace and later by Rooney Mara.



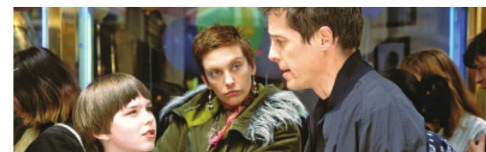
### Iron Man 3

Writer/director Shane Black clearly has a thing about Christmas. Many of his flicks — including Iron Man 3 — take place during the holiday season, among them Lethal Weapon, The Last Boy Scout, The Long Kiss Goodnight and Kiss Kiss Bang Bang. There's something about a Christmas setting that ably unites varied characters and pulls together a sprawling storyline while driving home key plot points, while blowing stuff up, of course.



### Goodfellas

This Martin Scorsese classic makes the cut by way of the fact it spans several decades and therefore includes a holiday-themed scene, and it is a doozy featuring Robert De Niro's trademark intensity: After a lucrative heist leaves the mobsters flush with cash, some arrive at a holiday party flaunting the spoils, sending De Niro's pragmatic Jimmy into a fury for attracting unwanted attention.



### About a Boy

The holiday shmaltz sneaks up on you in this Hugh Grant romantic comedy about a self-absorbed bachelor who is more humbug than ho-ho-ho. Until he befriends a young boy and the boy's suicidal mum, of course, and gradually learns there's more to life than hook-ups and his posh hipster toys. Added holiday points come from the fact Grant's character lives on royalties from his father's song Santa's Super Sleigh.

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# What do Mary Poppins, Pulp Fiction and The Right Stuff have in common?

## Preserving culture.

The U.S. Library of Congress has unveiled the films they're inducting into the National Film Registry

Just in time for a new movie about the making of *Mary Poppins*, the 1964 Disney classic starring Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke has been selected for preservation at the Library of Congress so future

generations of Americans can see it.

On Wednesday, the library is inducting 25 films into the National Film Registry to be preserved for their cultural, historical or cinematic significance. This year's selections include Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*, the space race film *The Right Stuff*, and Michael Moore's documentary confronting the auto industry, *Roger and Me*.

Curators said it was a coincidence that they selected *Mary Poppins* just ahead of its 50th anniversary and during

the release of the new Disney film *Saving Mr. Banks*, which is about the making of the movie. Steve Leggett, program co-ordinator for the library's National Film Preservation Board, said *Mary Poppins* had been on the short list of picks many times before.

"It's just a title that every-

one has seen and recognizes, and the musical numbers and just the Julie Andrews and the shim-shim-a-ree — it's just become a real, imbued part of our culture," he said.

The films chosen this year span from 1919 to 2002 and include Hollywood classics, documentaries, silent films,

independent flicks and experimental pictures. Congress created the program in 1989 to ensure that gems from American movie history are preserved for years to come.

Some are chosen for their influence on movies that would follow, as with *Pulp*

## Films in danger

Earlier this month, the Library of Congress released a study that found 70 per cent of America's feature-length silent films have already been lost. Original prints of even newer movies, such as Michael Moore's *Roger and Me* from 1989, have become endangered. In a statement to the library, Moore said he learned last year there were no more usable prints left of his film.



*Mary Poppins* is guaranteed to be preserved for future generations.

CONTRIBUTED

## Ebook review

## A book on Mr. Banks



**MIND THE APP**  
Kris Abel  
@RealKrisAbel  
scene@metronews.ca

**Saving Mr. Banks: The Official Multi-Touch Book** By Tyler Christian & Hilary Hattenbach  
iBooks for iPad/Mac

Yes, it's a promotional pamphlet with profiles on Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson, but done with



the added care of an expensive coffee table book. The surprising focus is on the film's inspiration, *Mary Poppins*, with original artwork and sheet music, audio of P.T. Travers in meetings, archival footage, and early song recordings. These are the treasures you'll cherish.

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*Pulp Fiction* is one of the films selected by the Library of Congress. CONTRIBUTED



*The Right Stuff*. CONTRIBUTED

*Fiction* from 1994. The film board called it a milestone for independent cinema, and Leggett noted Tarantino's "stylized violence and kind of strangeness" in the cinematography.

Older films often become in danger of being lost, said Librarian of Congress James Billington, "so we must protect the nation's matchless film heritage and cinematic creativity."

This year's selections represent the "extreme vitality and diversity of American film heritage," Leggett said. Many illustrate American culture and society from their times, he said.

The oldest films joining the registry this year are from the silent era. They include 1920's *Daughter of Dawn*, which featured an all-Native-American cast of Comanche and Kiowa people, with a fictional love story and a record of Native American traditions of the time. The 1919 silent film *A Virtuous Vamp*, a spoof on workplace romance, made Constance Talmadge an early film star. And *Ella Cinders* from 1926 featured the famous actress Colleen Moore.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# Is this why he's been hustling?



American Hustle opens Friday. CONTRIBUTED

**American Hustle.** Director David O. Russell says all his filmmaking has led up to this movie

Given director David O. Russell's recent track record, it's no surprise expectations are high for his latest holiday release, *American Hustle*.

The sprawling star-packed thriller — the follow-up to last year's Oscar-winning crowd-pleaser *Silver Linings Playbook* — heads to Canadian theatres this weekend after making it onto a slew of critics' best-of-2013 lists and garnering key early awards nominations.

Russell demurs any suggestion the 1970s-set *American Hustle* could be on the same buzz-laden Oscar track as his 2012 feel-good romance starring Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper, or the Oscar run enjoyed by his brutal 2010 holiday release, *The Fighter*, with Christian Bale and Amy Adams.

But he does admit his brazen, fictionalized take on the Abscam tale marks a new career benchmark, which he credits in large part to the bonds it cements with returning players Bale, Cooper, Adams and Lawrence, each featured in radically different roles.

"They understand the world they're in and then

they can all channel that dream and it allows magical things to happen.... that's what this is," Russell said in a recent interview from New York, describing his core cast as "collaborators" in his vision. "And this didn't happen to me before in my filmmaking — I feel like all my filmmaking was sort of leading up to this work."

An outlandish no-holds-barred spirit pervades the hair-obsessed, sequin-adorned world of *American Hustle*, where an array of hustlers scheme and plot their way to dreams of love and respect.

It's loosely inspired by an actual FBI sting that netted members of Congress for accepting bribes from a fake Arab sheik, but veers in wild directions as it explores desperate people hungry for acceptance.

Bale is nearly unrecognizable as pot-bellied con man Irving Rosenfeld, who is forced to help Cooper's wild FBI agent Richie Dimaso in an increasingly reckless scheme to nab corrupt politicians and casino-skimming mobsters.

Russell says he and Bale sketched their ideas about Irving, a character inspired by a real con man named Melvin Weinberg, in Bale's backyard in Los Angeles about a year ago.

"The film is really about reinvention and survival and that was the larger idea that really interested Christian Bale and me while we were in his backyard — it

## Quoted

**"The film is really about reinvention and survival"**

Director David O. Russell on what interested Christian Bale about this project

was not any kind of cynical story but (rather) a very soulful story about people who loved life and loved each other but were facing some enormous predicament," he says, drawing comparisons to the conflicted characters of *Silver Linings Playbook* and *The Fighter*.

Adams plays Irving's seductive yet fierce partner Sydney Prosser, a hard-bitten character Russell says he crafted just for the actress, who is better known for playing relatively cutesy romantics in films including *Enchanted*, *Julie & Julia*, *Leap Year* and *The Muppets*.

"I wanted her to be the way she was in *The Fighter* — people doubted she could do that and I knew she could just from knowing her a little bit — and I kept saying to her: I want to create a role for you," he says.

"I like to cast against type. It's very exciting for the actors, it's very exciting for the audiences and it sort of makes the audience not come in with prearranged expectations, or if they are, they're subverted immediately."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bruce Willis ALL IMAGES GETTY

## Willis and wife expecting baby number two

Bruce Willis is reportedly set to be a father once again, with wife Emma Heming expecting the couple's second child, according to *Us Weekly*. Willis and Hem-

ing are also parents to one-year-old daughter Mabel, while Willis also has three daughters — Rumer, Scout and Tallulah — with ex-wife Demi Moore.



Kelly LeBrock

## LeBrock arrested for driving under the influence

Weird Science star Kelly LeBrock was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence following a routine traffic stop in Santa Barbara last month, according to *E! News*. The model and actress — famous for her “don’t hate me because I’m

beautiful” Pantene ads from the ‘80s — failed to stop at a stop sign and was exceeding the speed limit and straddling the double yellow line when cops pulled her over. She then reportedly failed field sobriety tests and was arrested “without incident.”

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

### The Word



## Lawrence condemns fat insults

Jennifer Lawrence is going on the offensive when it comes to Hollywood's warped body image standards. “I just think it should be illegal to call somebody fat on TV,” the

star tells Barbara Walters in an interview. “Because why is humiliating people funny? I get it, and I do it too, we all do it. But I think when it comes to the media, the media needs to take responsibility for the effect that it has on our younger generation, on these girls who are watching these television shows and picking up how to talk and how to be cool.”



Julia Roberts

## Roberts did not relish a bit of rough and tumble with Streep

Surprisingly, Julia Roberts didn't relish the opportunity to tackle Meryl Streep and wrestle her to the carpet in August: *Osage County*, she revealed during a post-premiere Q & A. “I didn't look forward to it,” Roberts says. “It's not how I saw the dream of my time with Meryl Streep. But she was a worthy opponent. She was

not going down without some scratches and some heels in thighs.” And while there were stunt personnel on hand to help the actresses, Roberts handled her tackling herself, apparently. “Julia didn't need a stunt double because she's plenty tough,” Streep says.



### Twitter



@JohnCusack

So good to check back in with CNN every few years — Piers Morgan in a fiery debate with Ann Coulter whether Santa is white



@JuddApatow

When someone says there was too much marketing of *Anchorman 2* I usually say ‘you go up against *The Hobbit* without marketing. FU grandma!’



@oliviawilde

I broke into @jayleno's dressing room and stole one of his jackets for my fetus.



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# Their style is in the stars

Forget trying to break your giftees down into the usual gift guide categories of personality type or price. We spoke to identical twin sisters Tali and Ophira Edut, a.k.a. The AstroTwins, to find out what each star sign typically desires when it comes to the season of goodwill.

METRO WORLD NEWS

## Aries

"As a fire sign, Aries are very competitive. They rule the head and are always thinking of ways to improve their lives. So accessories that draw attention and frame the face, like hats, earrings and makeup, would be good options."

Maison Michel boater \$616, net-a-porter.com



## Taurus

"The bull likes items that are practical and durable. They want luxury things that are built to last. Purposeful items, like pajamas and shoes, with an understated design will work best for this Earth sign."

Friends Layla leather and rose gold headphones \$214, net-a-porter.com



## Gemini

"Those born under this air sign are very eclectic. They have a bit of a wacky, boho style. Channel the Olsen twins and you won't go wrong. They're very curious and love to explore. Opt for natural fabrics and fruity fragrances for bonus points."



Ilse Jacobsen lace up wellies \$164, gift-library.com

## Libra

"Libras love presents that look pretty. They have a very girly sense of style, so opt for jewellery or chocolates that are decadent and have a beautiful aesthetic. Try cosmetics that feel indulgent rather than just practical."



Laura Mercier almond coconut milk honey bath \$51, johnlewis.com

## Scorpio

"The most sensual of the signs, Scorpios love to embrace a dramatic atmosphere. Choose items that are dark and indulgent. They have expensive taste and love exclusives."

Elle Macpherson Intimates lace bra \$57, net-a-porter.com



## Sagittarius

"Ruled by the sun, Sagittarians are always on the go. They love bold colour patterns, especially citrus combinations. As they travel a lot, items that make plane rides and road trips easier or more fun would be good options."

Lotus Wei Pure Energy mist \$48, beingcontent.com



## Cancer

"The home is where Cancers feel most comfortable. They have an almost grandmotherly style, which extends to their wardrobe too. Pearls, old fashioned prints and pastel colours suit them best."

Penhaligon's Bluebell eau de toilette \$140, penhaligons.com



## Leo

"Big, bold and outgoing sums up this fire sign. Leos are very outgoing and love to socialize. So look for gifts that have a cool and unusual pattern or anything with dazzling embellishments."

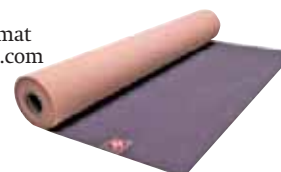
Marc by Marc Jacobs tablet case \$40.60, shopbop.com



## Virgo

"They are worriers and extremely neurotic. Anything that encourages relaxation and sends them a subtle sign that they need to unwind and calm down would be good. Choose things in pretty colours that are soothing."

eKO lite yoga mat \$48, manduka.com



## Capricorn

"An Earth sign that loves luxury items — but only if they are built to last. Capricorns want good quality items with a minimalist design. Although, they sound hard to please they are, in fact, very down to earth and adore practical presents."

Leather wrap gloves \$64, stories.com



## Aquarius

"Those with the eleventh sign are gypsies at heart. Anything that embraces their boho, wacky style would be warmly welcomed especially colourful jewellery and bold prints."

Lucy Folk silver taco bracelet \$115, matches-fashion.com



## Pisces

"The most dreamy and mystical of the signs, Pisceans adore anything that embraces this side of their personality. Good options include natural and precious materials that help towards creating a serene atmosphere or channeling positive vibes."

Essential oil soy wax candle \$30, bsabcan-dles.com



# 3 FREE

# No need to be bitter if the eggplant sandwiches turn out a little cheesy

## Ingredients

4 portions

- 1 whole egg
- 2 tbsp water or 2% milk
- 1 cup seasoned dry bread crumbs
- 3 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- 3 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp minced fresh garlic
- 10 slices of eggplant, skin on
- 3/4 cup tomato sauce
- 1/2 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan



ROSE REISMAN  
for more, visit  
rosereisman.com

Eggplant, a healthy vegetable, is often loaded with fat and calories from the amount of oil used in frying or sautéing it.

This baked version omits the oil, and it turns out great! Purchase fresh young eggplant; when overripe, it becomes bitter. If the skin doesn't spring back when pressed, then it's too old.

1. Preheat the oven to 425°F (220°C). Spray a large baking sheet with cooking oil

2. Whisk the egg with the water in a small bowl. Combine the bread crumbs, parsley, Parmesan and garlic on a plate, mixing well. Dip the eggplant in the egg mixture, then coat with the bread crumb mixture. Place on the

## Cheesy Eggplant Sandwiches



A delicious combination of eggplant and cheese. ROSE REISMAN

prepared pan. Bake, turning once, for 20 minutes or until tender.

3. Spread half of the tomato sauce in a large casserole

dish. Place 5 eggplant slices over top. Top each with remaining tomato sauce. Add half the mozzarella cheese and top with remaining eggplant slices. Top with remain-

ing mozzarella and Parmesan. Bake for five minutes or until the cheese is melted.

Preparation time 10 minutes  
Cooking time 25 minutes

## Mind the App

## How to make Substitutions



MIND THE APP  
Kris Abel  
@RealKrisAbel  
life@metronews.ca

## iPhone/iPad \$0.99

Holiday meals can be tricky with guests who have allergies or special needs. This handy reference will help you pick out replacement ingredients without changing recipes or abandoning family traditions.



# Do something original with those sweet potato recipes

Sweet potatoes generally get one of three treatments at the dinner table. They are mashed like regular potatoes; they are roasted like squash, or they are saturated with sugar until they no longer resemble a vegetable. This is a nice alternative.

Heat the oven to 400 F. Poke the sweet potatoes all over with a fork.

Place the sweet potatoes directly on the oven's centre rack and bake for 1 hour, or until completely tender.

While the sweet potatoes cook, steam the cauliflower. Set a steamer basket in a medium saucepan with 1/2 inch of water.

Place the saucepan over medium-high heat and add the cauliflower to the steamer basket. Cover and cook until the cauliflower is very tender, about 15 minutes. Remove the cauliflower from the steamer and set aside.

When the sweet potatoes are baked, let them cool until easily handled.

## Ingredients

- 4 large sweet potatoes
- 16 ounces cauliflower florets, fresh or frozen
- 4 tablespoons butter, divided
- Zest of 1 orange
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 1 cup shredded Parmesan

Peel the sweet potatoes, then place the flesh in a large bowl.

Add 3 tablespoons of the butter and the orange zest, then mash well. Season with salt and pepper, cover the bowl and set aside.

Place the steamed cauliflower and the remaining 1 tablespoon of butter in the food processor. Process until pureed.

Add the Parmesan, then pulse to combine. Add



Orange sweet potatoes swirled with Parmesan cauliflower puree. HANDOUT

the cauliflower puree to the sweet potatoes, using a spoon to swirl the two together without completely mixing them. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Recipe. Grilled mango and brie quesadillas



In a small bowl, combine mango, jalapeno, onion and cilantro. Add lime juice, mixing well to combine. (Make ahead: Prepare mango salsa up to 2 hours in advance. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate.)

Divide brie evenly among tortillas, laying it on the lower half. Divide mango salsa evenly on top of brie. Fold each tortilla in half.

Preheat contact grill. (If your contact grill has more than one temperature setting, set it to high.)

Spray both sides of contact grill with vegetable cooking spray or oil. Place quesadillas on grill with folded side closest to front edge. (This prevents cheese from running down into the drip tray.)

Close lid. Grill for 2 to 3 minutes or until golden

## Ingredients

- 1 mango, peeled and chopped
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) minced red onion
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) chopped fresh cilantro
- Juice of 1 lime
- 250 g (8 oz) brie, thinly sliced
- 8 tortillas (25 cm/10 inches in diameter)

brown and crisp. THE CANADIAN PRESS



# Mid-century mash-up

The 1950s and '60s have offered up a lot of home-decor inspiration over the past year — anything retro or vintage-influenced is hot-hot-hot. The look is a mishmash of past design that can encompass a trip to the parental basement or a hunt through a vintage shop, and retailers have cleverly channelled it. Here are some trendy and stylish products to transport you back to a Mad Men era.



**DESIGN CENTRE**  
Karl Lohnes  
home@metronews.ca

Shiny citrus tones against deep grey stoneware lends retro style to dinner parties. Verte Dinnerware 16-piece set, \$79, urbanbarn.com.



Adorn your dresser with heirloom-style brooches without robbing Mom's jewel box. Keepsake Brooch Knob, \$14 US, anthropologie.com.

Save your quarters with this modernized pay phone and savings bank all in one; the perfect wall phone for calling a taxi. Crosley Vintage Style Pay Telephone, \$90, sears.ca.



Light up your chandelier in true '70s style. 25-watt Chandelier Light Bulb set of four, \$24 US, urbanoutfitters.com.



Inspired by late '50s Danish mid-century design; open and airy for a light look. Patrik Accent Chair, \$1,600, thebay.com.

Straight out of Granny's china cabinet, fanciful flatware dresses up a modern table. Flores Flatware, from \$7 per piece, zarahome.com.



# You snooze, you lose, MacTavish



**THE HOCKEY NEWS**  
Rory Boylen  
edmonton@metronews.ca

When Craig MacTavish was named GM of the Edmonton Oilers in April, he spoke about being an impatient guy and exposing his team to some degree of risk in order to move it forward "in rapid fashion." About 40 per cent of the Oilers roster was turned over in the summer, with additions such as David Perron, Andrew Ference and Boyd Gordon expected to make an impact. They have, but the result has not improved. After winning only three of 14 games in October, it became immediately clear those summer moves just were not enough.

So where are the risky moves to try to push the club forward? The signing of Ilya Bryzgalov was more desperate than bold.

The fact is, the supposedly impatient MacTavish has waited too long to move on this season. The Oilers, now 20 points back of a playoff spot, face insurmountable odds to come back as the NHL holiday trade freeze is set to kick in.

No longer does it make sense to trade a major player for immediate gain. This season is destined to go just like all the others in recent memory now: starting with a world of optimism, ending with crushing disappointment and another lottery pick.

So, long-term planning will continue to be the Oilers' modus operandi. They'll wait



The summer additions of David Perron, pictured, Andrew Ference and Boyd Gordon have not been enough to improve the Oilers. GETTY IMAGES FILE

## From optimism to disappointment

**This season is destined to go just like all the others in recent memory now.**

on the full development of their young stars and hope the two-way responsibility clicks within them. They'll hope the current core will one day mesh with all its talent. But just because you have a pile of high-end draft picks every year doesn't mean they'll pay off as a winning roster. The Florida Panthers have been a past example of

this — the Oilers are the current example.

It's going to have to start with goaltending. While there has been a gaggle of backup and prospect goalies in the NHL playing way better than anticipated, it's the ones who do it consistently every year that make a difference to their teams. Devan Dubnyk has shown he's not

the answer. Bryzgalov is not a long-term option and is certainly not a secure asset. For as many shots as the Oilers defence allows, there are some teams allowing more who are staying in the playoff hunt. Dallas, Colorado and Phoenix have all had reliable goaltending performances.

The status quo can no longer be acceptable in Edmonton, but the time for bold moves to boost this season has come and gone. It's now time to make absolutely sure this train doesn't derail again next season.

## NHL

### Jagr helps Devils top Senators

Jaromir Jagr scored his 693rd career goal, Reid Boucher netted his first in the NHL and the New Jersey Devils beat the Ottawa Senators 5-2 Wednesday night.

Jagr moved past Steve Yzerman and into sole possession of eighth place on the NHL goals list, one behind Mark Messier for seventh. The 41-year-old Jagr's first power-play goal of the season gave him a team-leading 12 goals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## NHL

### Steen signs on for 3 years in St. Louis

The St. Louis Blues have agreed to a \$17.4-million US, three-year contract extension with forward Alex Steen.

Steen has 22 goals and 14 assists in 33 games this season. The 22 goals are tied for second in the NHL, trailing only Alex Ovechkin of the Washington Capitals.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## NBA

### Heat handle rival Pacers in Miami

Dwyane Wade scored 32 points, Ray Allen hit a go-ahead three-pointer with just under a minute left and the Miami Heat erased a 15-point deficit in the second half to beat the Indiana Pacers 97-94 on Wednesday night.

LeBron James scored 24 on a bad left ankle for the Heat, who closed within a game of the East-leading Pacers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Montgomery at risk of missing Sochi Olympics

**Skeleton.** Reigning gold medallist in tough to earn Canada's final men's position at Winter Games

The man who gave the host country one of its most memorable moments of the 2010 Winter Olympics faces long odds to compete at the next Winter Games.

Jon Montgomery's gold medal in skeleton at the Whistler Sliding Centre and his subsequent auctioning off of a pitcher of beer in the village square elevated him to folk-hero status.

But the 34-year-old from Russell, Man., might not make the 2014 team for Sochi, Russia, in February.

Montgomery's results the last season and a half have yet to meet Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton's qualification criteria.

## Quoted



**"I know I created the bed I'm sleeping in, but I'm only disappointed. Disappointed is fleeting. Regret is lasting."**

Jon Montgomery doesn't regret taking off the 2011-12 season or the move to a new sled, which hasn't translated into success on the track.

He needs to hit the ball out of the park and also have a little luck in the four races he has left to qualify before Jan. 19.

"Unfortunately for me, I'm fighting an uphill battle in that regard," Montgomery said Wednesday in Calgary. "I would guess the way things have gone it would be nothing short of winning the four races before that deadline."

Mellisa Hollingsworth of Eckville, Alta., Calgary's Sarah Reid and John Fairbairn and Eric Neilson of Kelowna, B.C., were introduced Wednesday as Canada's skeleton athletes for Sochi.

Canada can qualify a third man and a third woman for

Sochi in January, according to head coach Duff Gibson. Should Canada gain those berths, Montgomery is up against Dave Greszczyszyn of Burlington, Ont., for the final spot on the men's team. It will come down to points earned in races.

Greszczyszyn is currently ranked 23rd in the world and Montgomery 25th with 32 points separating them.

If the two men end up close or tied in points, it could come down to coach's discretion, which Gibson doesn't relish. The 2006 Olympic champion hopes the sliders sort it out themselves so he can avoid that painful decision.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Battle for the last spot

Jon Montgomery didn't qualify in fall selection races for the World Cup team. He's competing on the secondary Intercontinental Cup circuit where results are worth fewer points than World Cup results. Dave Greszczyszyn will continue to race World Cups.

- "Dave will be earning twice as many points for his results on World Cup than I will be on IC," Montgomery said. "If I win all four races and Dave gets 13th in his races he'll beat me out in points."

- Montgomery will race twice in Whistler, B.C., on the track of his Olympic triumph before a pair of races in Park City, Utah, in January.



Mellisa Hollingsworth, from Eckville, Alta., celebrates with schoolchildren after being named to the 2014 Olympic skeleton team at a news conference in Calgary on Wednesday. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Nightclub altercation

### Lucic still has love for Vancouver

Days after saying he was done defending his hometown following an altercation at a nightclub, Boston Bruins forward Milan Lucic says he's still "proud" to be from Vancouver.

Lucic claims he was punched twice Saturday night after the Vancouver Canucks defeated the Bruins 6-2 in Boston's first visit to Rogers Arena since the club's victory in Game 7 of the 2011 Stanley Cup final.

"I have no reason left to try and defend my city, and the people of my city," Lucic told reporters in Boston on Monday.

Lucic, who starred for the Western Hockey League's Vancouver Giants before making the jump to the NHL, backtracked somewhat Wednesday in a statement released through the Bruins.

"While the actions of a few individuals have deeply upset me and will impact the time I spend downtown going forward, I will not let those incidents diminish the love and pride I have for the city as a whole," the statement read. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Tennis. Djokovic enlists Becker as a coach to help him 'win new trophies'

Novak Djokovic is turning to Boris Becker for help in 2014.

The second-ranked Serb said Wednesday that Becker will join his staff for next season as head coach.

"He is a true legend, someone who has great tennis knowledge and his experience will help me win new trophies from the Grand Slams and other tournaments," Djokovic said in a statement. "Becker is a great person, too, and I am sure he will fit in our team in the best possible way."

The 46-year-old Becker, a six-time Grand Slam champion, will travel with Djokovic and other coaches to tournaments, including next month's Australian Open.

Djokovic won his fourth Australian Open title last year and finished the 2013 season ranked No. 2 in the world behind Rafael Nadal.

Becker will join a coaching staff that also includes Marian Vajda, Miljan Amanovic and Gebhard Phil-Gritsch.

"I will do my best to help him reach his goals, and I am sure we can achieve great things together," said Becker, who became the youngest man to win Wimbledon when



Novak Djokovic GETTY IMAGES FILE

he was 17 in 1985.

Vajda, who has been working with Djokovic since 2006, said the Serb needed a new head coach to continue improving.

"Becker's assignment will not affect much my position in the team, since I will do all I can for Novak, just like I did before," Vajda said. "On the other hand, choosing Boris as the head coach is a good solution, I am sure we will get along very well, and that Novak will continue to progress."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## NHL

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

#### ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	34	23	9	2	94	70	48
Montreal	36	21	12	3	91	76	45
Tampa Bay	34	20	11	3	93	82	43
Detroit	36	15	12	9	91	99	39
Toronto	36	17	16	3	99	105	37
Ottawa	36	14	16	6	101	118	34
Florida	35	13	17	5	81	110	31
Buffalo	34	8	23	3	59	98	19

#### METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	36	25	10	1	112	78	51
Washington	34	18	13	3	107	102	39
Carolina	34	14	13	7	79	94	35
Philadelphia	34	15	15	4	81	93	34
NY Rangers	35	16	17	2	79	95	34
New Jersey	35	14	15	6	83	87	34
Columbus	34	14	16	4	87	95	32
NY Islanders	35	9	19	7	85	121	25

#### Wednesday's results

New Jersey 5 Ottawa 2  
Pittsburgh 4 NY Rangers 3 (SO)

#### Tuesday's results

Boston 2 Calgary 0  
Buffalo 4 Winnipeg 2  
Tampa Bay 3 NY Islanders 2 (SO)

Florida 3 Toronto 1

Anaheim 5 Detroit 2

Montreal 3 Phoenix 1

Philadelphia 5 Washington 2

Minnesota 3 Vancouver 2 (SO)

San Jose 4 St. Louis 2

Chicago 3 Nashville 1

Dallas 3 Colorado 2

Los Angeles 3 Edmonton 0

#### Thursday's games

##### All Times Eastern

Phoenix at Toronto, 7 p.m.  
Minnesota at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.  
Boston at Buffalo, 7 p.m.  
Columbus at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
Calgary at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.  
Nashville at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.  
Florida at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.  
Montreal at St. Louis, 8 p.m.  
Vancouver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
Edmonton at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.  
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

#### CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	37	25	7	5	138	102	55
St. Louis	33	22	7	4	114	80	48
Colorado	33	22	10	1	96	78	45
Minnesota	36	20	11	5	84	83	45
Dallas	33	16	12	5	95	101	37
Nashville	34	16	15	3	78	95	35
Winnipeg	36	15	16	5	95	106	35

#### PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	36	24	7	5	116	91	53
Los Angeles	35	23	8	4	97	68	50
San Jose	34	21	7	6	112	84	48
Vancouver	36	20	10	6	100	86	46
Phoenix	33	18	10	5	105	103	41
Calgary	34	13	16	5	86	108	31
Edmonton	36	11	22	3	93	123	25

**Note:** Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

#### Friday's games

Anaheim at New Jersey, 7 p.m.  
Washington at Carolina, 7 p.m.  
NY Islanders at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.  
Florida at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.  
Vancouver at Chicago, 8 p.m.

#### Saturday's games

Calgary at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.  
Phoenix at Ottawa, 2 p.m.  
Colorado at Los Angeles, 4 p.m.  
Montreal at Nashville, 7 p.m.  
Anaheim at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.  
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.  
Buffalo at Boston, 7 p.m.  
Detroit at Toronto, 7 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Columbus, 7 p.m.  
New Jersey at Washington, 7 p.m.  
St. Louis at Edmonton, 10 p.m.  
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

## SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	19	28	47
Kane, Chi	20	26	46
Malkin, Pgh	9	32	41
Getzlaf, Ana	16	23	39
Ovechkin, Wash	28	10	38
Tavares, NYI	13	25	38
Perry, Ana	22	15	37

Not including last night's games

## NBA

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	20	5	.800	—
d-Miami	19	6	.760	1
Atlanta	14	12	.538	6 <sup>1/2</sup>
d-Boston	12	15	.444	9
Detroit	13	14	.481	8
Charlotte	12	14	.462	8 <sup>1/2</sup>
Washington	11	13	.458	8 <sup>1/2</sup>
Chicago	9	14	.391	10
Toronto	9	14	.391	10
Cleveland	9	15	.375	10 <sup>1/2</sup>
Brooklyn	9	16	.360	11
Orlando	8	18	.308	12 <sup>1/2</sup>
New York	7	17	.292	12 <sup>1/2</sup>
Philadelphia	7	19	.269	13 <sup>1/2</sup>
Milwaukee	5	19	.208	14 <sup>1/2</sup>

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Portland	22	4	.846	—
Oklahoma City	20	4	.833	1
d-San Antonio	19	5	.792	2
d-L.A. Clippers	17	9	.654	5
Houston	16	9	.640	5 <sup>1/2</sup>
Phoenix	14	9	.609	6 <sup>1/2</sup>
Denver	14	10	.583	7
Dallas	14	10	.583	7
Golden State	14	12	.538	8
Minnesota	12	13	.480	9 <sup>1/2</sup>
L.A. Lakers	12	13	.480	9 <sup>1/2</sup>
New Orleans	11	12	.478	9 <sup>1/2</sup>
Memphis	10	14	.417	11
Sacramento	7	17	.292	14
Utah	7	21	.250	16

x - clinched playoff berth; y - division; z - conference.

#### Wednesday's results

Utah 86 Orlando 82  
Charlotte 104 Toronto 102 OT  
Miami 97 Indiana 94  
Atlanta 124 Sacramento 107  
Detroit 107 Boston 106  
Washington 113 Brooklyn 107  
New York at Milwaukee

Portland at Minnesota

Memphis at Dallas

San Antonio at Phoenix

Chicago at Houston

New Orleans at L.A. Clippers

#### Thursday's games

Chicago at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.  
San Antonio at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Horoscopes

**Aries**

March 21 - April 20

You may have lots of big ideas in your mind but are you ever going to get around to turning them into something useful, something that makes a difference both to yourself and to others?

**Taurus**

April 21 - May 21

You may resent having to pay for something you think you should get for free but if you make a scene you may end up paying even more.

**Gemini**

May 22 - June 21

Partnerships of all kinds have been under the spotlight of late and will remain so until the Sun moves out of your opposite sign this weekend.

**Cancer**

June 22 - July 23

It may seem as if someone is trying to undermine your position, and maybe they are, but there is no need to worry about it.

**Leo**

July 24 - Aug. 23

You have been in impressive form of late but all good things must come to an end and life may not be quite so easy when the Sun changes signs on the 21st. If there is anything of a creative nature that needs doing then do it now.

**Virgo**

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

If you feel the need to kiss and make up with a partner or relative now is the time. If you leave it much longer you may find that it isn't so easy or, worse, that they have found the love they need with someone else.

**Libra**

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

What happens over the next few days will help you to understand that your priorities are wrong, that you are worrying about the things you cannot change while neglecting the things you can.

**Scorpio**

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Slow things right down and take stock of how far you have come, because only then will you be in a position to decide how far you still have to go.

**Sagittarius**

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

The Sun remains in your sign only until Saturday, so get busy and get as much done as you can between now and then.

**Capricorn**

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

When the Sun moves into your sign this weekend a new solar year begins. Make it your objective, today and tomorrow, to look back over the past 12 months and learn what you can from your mistakes.

**Aquarius**

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Spend as much time as you can with your friends today because you may not get so many opportunities to be sociable in the days and weeks to follow.

**Pisces**

Feb. 20 - March 20

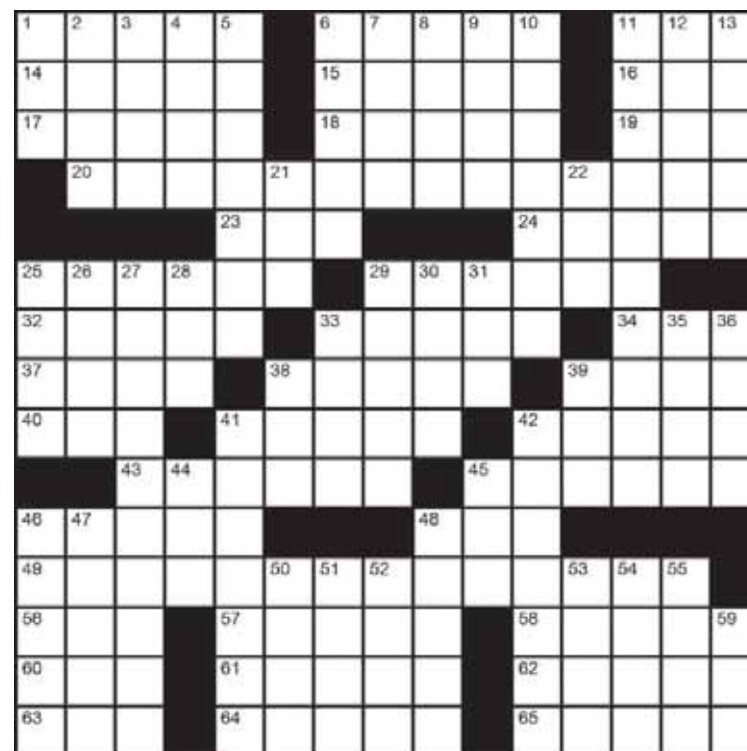
You need to convince those in positions of power that you deserve to be given more responsibility and the rewards that go with it. Timing is everything and the right time is now.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

**Across**

1. Tropical nut
6. \_\_\_\_ behold!
11. "Pick a Puppy" channel
14. "ER" actress Ms. Tierney
15. Ewoks' forest moon home
16. Not 'neath
17. 'Material' suffix
18. Invest
19. San Francisco's \_\_\_\_ Valley
20. Prospector in "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer": 2 wds.
23. \_\_\_\_Jongg
24. Actor's tucked-into-shoes devices
25. Country songstress, \_\_\_\_ Lynne
29. Sidekick to #20-Across
32. Birchbark craft
33. Range
34. NHL official
37. With a flair for crafts
38. Lyrical lament
39. Bygone time
40. Golfer's gadget
41. Partake in Winter fun
42. "...not a creature was stirring, not even a \_\_\_\_"
43. Prince \_\_\_\_, British Columbia
45. Awakens
46. "The Birds" (1963) star Ms. Hedren
48. Highway topping
49. They're on the



- Canadian side at Niagara: 2 wds.  
56. Pasta names suffix  
57. Environment Minister, Ms. Aglukkaq  
58. Donald Trump's first wife  
60. '\_\_\_\_' for Rimouski  
61. Gourmand

62. 'frisco footballer  
63. Actor, Daniel \_\_\_\_ Kim  
64. Skirt alternative  
65. Kind of duck

**Down**

1. Dieter's stat.  
2. Simple

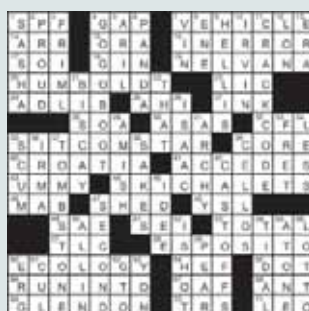
3. Ballet outfit  
4. Mr. Estrada  
5. Alberta city between Red Deer and Edmonton  
6. Bloodsucker  
7. Never, \_\_\_\_ occasion  
8. Env. info

9. Morning's follower  
10. Phys. of 1969 to 1976 TV: 2 wds.  
11. Like many a Christmas Tree  
12. "Count \_\_\_\_" (I don't want to participate)  
13. Lock of hair

21. "Nope."  
22. Rap music's Kim  
25. Hightail it  
26. Tortoise's competitor  
27. Hamlet in the Northwest Territories  
28. Actress Myrna  
29. "Grace Under Fire" star Ms. Butler  
30. Try to persuade  
31. Vachon treat, \_\_\_\_ West  
33. Wing-like  
35. Poet's 'previously'  
36. Charges  
38. Just manage, \_\_\_\_ out  
39. Particular pronoun  
41. Said one's lengthy piece  
42. Banff National Park: \_\_\_\_ Lake, it's glacier-fed  
44. Sit-\_\_\_\_ (Exercises)  
45. UK military service  
46. Race place  
47. Ancient Greek colony  
48. "\_\_\_\_ are Not Enough" by Northern Lights  
50. Singe  
51. Table d'\_\_\_\_ (Fixed price restaurant menu)  
52. Threes - twos = what's?  
53. Old Rome's 57  
54. Ground  
55. Dagger  
59. ETA part, for short

See today's answers at [metronews.ca/answers](http://metronews.ca/answers).  
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

Yesterday's Crossword

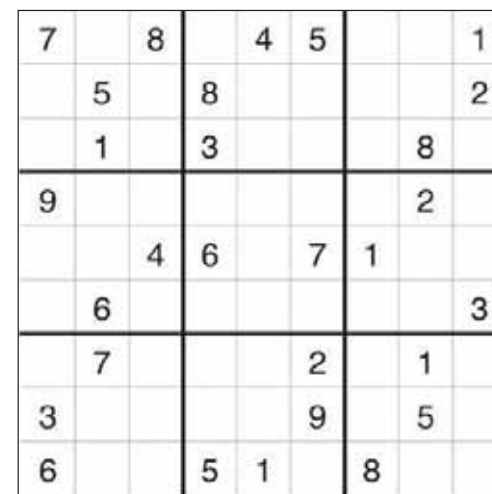


Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



MAX: -12°  
MIN: -22°



MAX: -12°  
MIN: -15°



MAX: -13°  
MIN: -20°



MICHELE MCDUGALL  
WEATHER SPECIALIST

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